"Before deciding on purchase of the site, Harvest Time explored opportunities in five states. We were looking for a qualified labor source, proximity to truck transportation routes, affordable utilities and a business-friendly environment," said Rich Paolino, CEO of Harvest Time. "Through the assistance and consistent attention of state and local officials, staying here and expanding in Mount Airy became an easy decision."

The One NC Fund provides financial assistance through local governments to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity and create new jobs in the state. Companies receive no money up front and must meet job creation and investment performance standards to qualify for grant funds. These grants also require and are contingent upon local matches.

North Carolina continues to have a top-ranked business climate. Through Gov. Perdue's JobsNOW initiative, the state will work aggressively to create jobs, train and retrain our workforce, and lay the foundation for a strong and sustainable economic future.

Through use of the One NC Fund, more than 40,000 jobs and \$7 billion in investment have been created since 2001. Other project partners include: the N.C. Department of Commerce, N.C. Community Colleges, Piedmont Triad Partnership, Surry County, Surry County Economic Development Partnership, City of Mount Airy and Surry Community College.

For information on job opportunities with the company, contact N.C. Employment Security Commission, Mount Airy Office, 541 West Pine St., Mount Airy, N.C., 27030-4437, phone (336) 786-4169.

For more information on Harvest Time Bread Co., go to: <a href="www.harvesttimebread.com/">www.harvesttimebread.com/</a>.

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